

Jorgieliz Casanova

CT Governor's Scholarship Testimony

My name is Jorgieliz Casanova; I am a freshman and a recipient of the Governor's Scholarship Program. This scholarship allowed me to attend college. When I walked into the Financial Aid office to speak about my financial package, I thought that I would be told "Sorry, there is nothing else available," but Instead, I got a respond summarizing my eligibility to the Governor's Scholarship and the joy that arose within me form that wasn't any ordinary joy. There's nothing I wanted more than to attend Albertus Magnus College. I wanted to get the experience of living on campus and being part of the amazing community I witness when I visited the campus. Being awarded this scholarship allowed me to expand and grow as a student, citizen and a Falcon. It allowed me to have the ideal college experience which I am still going through. I knew that I had to return the favor to the entities who made this possible. I had more time to focus on volunteering, working on something I am passionate about and giving the best appearance of this state, city and college. Because of the Governor's scholarship I had less stress and transitioned to a new employment with New Haven Promise, a scholarship foundation for students like myself. I also volunteered more as an Alumnus with College Summit and as a student with Albertus. I worked fewer hours than I was used to and was able to focus on my studies thus getting on the Dean's List for the fall semester with only one B! This scholarship has allowed me to explore more and encouraged me to take risks and to use my resources. The Governor's scholarship has been a part of why I am where I am today. I speak so highly of all who have helped because they believed in me without necessarily knowing me. The

faith that people have in me is the energy source that keeps me going and the achievements I have acquired are because I am paying it forward so that no child is left behind, so that no students would miss out on the great opportunity of college because of finances or fears. The empowerment that I've received from entities and people, such as, the Governor's Scholarship Program, New Haven Board of Education, Patricia Melton, Leslie Blatteau, College Summit and Albertus Magnus College are the reason why today I know that my education is the key to my success. I would want nothing else than to spread the knowledge that I have today unto other rising students, unto our future leaders.